



Learn about the Missoula County Community Justice Department.

The Missoula County Community Justice Department (CJD) works collaboratively with Missoula city and county governments and the community to continually improve the criminal legal system for everyone.

Our goals are to increase community safety, improve safety and healing for survivors of crime, safely reduce the jail population, increase court appearances for those accused, and address racial inequities in the criminal legal system. We care for the people who live here and believe that a fair and effective justice system is foundational to a healthy and thriving community.

Our team leads and supports multi-agency partnerships and projects by convening coalitions and working groups and strategically aligning activities across the justice and crisis response systems.

The department has three divisions: **Crime Victim Advocate Division**, **Court Support Services Division**, and **Justice Initiatives Division**.

CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE DIVISION supports victims of all types of crimes, prioritizing those who have experienced intimate partner violence and abuse to improve survivor safety and healing. Services are free and confidential and are delivered by the division's Civil and Criminal Advocates:

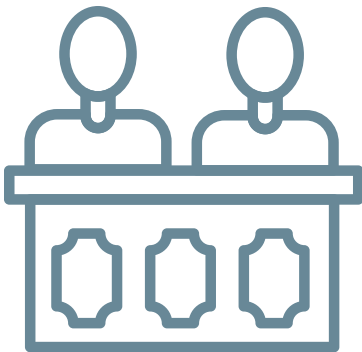
- **Civil Advocates** provide walk-in crisis counseling, assistance in applying for orders of protection, referrals to services, and support through the court system.
- **Criminal Advocates** are assigned to city and county law enforcement and prosecution offices to offer advocacy and supportive services from the time of an initial crime report to the resolution of a criminal case.





COURT SUPPORT ADVOCATE DIVISION improves outcomes for defendants of crime to ensure community safety, increase court appearances, reduce new criminal charges, and safely reduce the jail population. This division has four programs.

- **Community Service Program** connects people convicted of crimes with community service placements and monitoring as a part of their participation in the Missoula County Attorney's Calibrate program, Youth Court, and Justice Court's ROAD Court. The program is an alternative sanction to incarceration. Staff develop volunteer opportunities with local nonprofit agencies, provide worksite information to participants, monitor progress, and report successes and challenges to the referring agency.
- **Pretrial Assistance to Support Success (PASS)** supports misdemeanor pretrial defendants in reducing failures to appear, case processing time, new arrests, and incarceration rates. Support includes reminders about court dates, assistance with compliance with pretrial conditions of release, and guidance with accessing community programs and services, including housing, behavioral health care services, job services, and substance use treatment.



- **Pretrial Service Program** monitors and supports felony pretrial defendants released from jail while their case is processed through the courts. The program prioritizes public safety, assesses the risks and needs of defendants, facilitates defendants' appearances in court, helps defendants access community services to secure housing, employment, mental health care, and substance use treatment, supervises compliance with conditions of release from jail, and reports violations of the conditions to the court.
- **Public Safety Assessment Program** uses an evidence-based nine-factor tool to assess and predict whether a defendant will engage in new criminal activity, commit a new violent crime, or fail to appear in court if released before trial and provides judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys with additional information about whether a defendant can succeed in the community while awaiting trial.





JUSTICE INITIATIVES DIVISION works to improve the criminal legal system in Missoula County by building partnerships and leading efforts to address systemic problems that can cause harm to victims and defendants and create challenges for our community.

The division also provides targeted study and analysis, program development, funding development and management, project implementation, and specialized training and supports multi-agency initiatives to meet emerging community issues. Partnerships and programs include:

- The **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Executive Board**, a formal committee of key legal system stakeholders who are either elected or senior-level policymakers. These stakeholders meet every other month to discuss matters concerning the criminal legal system.
- The **CJCC Community Outreach Meeting**, which invites program managers, system leaders, and staff from more than 15 nonprofits, jail ministries, tribal nations, and other government entities to present progress updates regarding various justice system initiatives.
- **Family Violence Intervention and Education Sessions**, two-hour, court-ordered classes designed to decrease violent behavior in misdemeanor offenders of family violence. Classes include information about trauma and the impacts of adverse childhood experiences, conflict skills, and stories from reformed offenders.
- **Just Response**, Missoula County's coordinated community response team, which brings together all justice system partners and local service providers to improve victim safety and increase accountability in cases including abuse, intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking.
- **Partners for Reintegration (PFR)**, a community coalition of individuals, social services, faith communities, and local and state agencies assisting those returning from incarceration or treatment to successfully reintegrate into the Missoula community.
- **Rural Program**, which provides critical support and advocacy services to underserved rural community members in Missoula County and Mineral County who face barriers to receiving help after experiencing domestic or sexual violence or stalking.



- **Safety and Justice Challenge: Pretrial, Diversion, and Reentry Programs**, which provide evidence-based recommendations and strategies to reduce recidivism through pretrial services, diversion, and re-entry programs to address disparities and improve outcomes in Missoula's criminal legal system.



BY THE NUMBERS: WHO CJD HELPED IN 2023

CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES HELPED AND SUPPORTED:


1,169
NEW CLIENTS


359
RETURNING OR
ONGOING CLIENTS


466
CLIENTS IN
CIVIL CASES


1,310
CLIENTS IN
CRIMINAL CASES

19,640
SERVICES
PROVIDED



752 CALLS

referrals and/or informational services like accessing housing or childcare.

10 SERVICES
on average per client



BETWEEN OCT. 1, 2022, AND JUNE 19, 2023, **PASS** SUPERVISED AND SUPPORTED:

698 CASES

requiring regular check-ins

12 CASES

requiring full case-management

**ASSISTED OVER
400 CLIENTS
APPLYING FOR ORDERS
OF PROTECTION**

**TEMPORARY:
179 APPROVED
PERMANENT:
58 APPROVED**

Justice Initiatives Division provided Family Violence Intervention and Education Sessions to 138 defendants to decrease violent behavior in misdemeanor offenders of family violence. The program uses the class fees and additional funds to provide one-time financial support to survivors of domestic violence to meet health and safety needs, such as repairing a broken window. The department provides more than \$10,000 to an average of 50 survivors per year.

**\$10,000
PROVIDED**

TO

**50
SURVIVORS
PER YEAR**

Court Support Services staff completed 993 Public Safety Assessments to inform judges about defendants' likelihood that they will appear in court and remain arrest-free if on pretrial release.



**993
PUBLIC SAFETY
ASSESSMENTS
COMPLETED**

NEW NEW NEW
NEW NEW NEW

**THE
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
PROGRAM**



The Community Service Program, which began in November 2023, is for youth and adults sentenced to community service or seeking to reduce court fines and fees. **In its first month, 29 people participated in the program, with 23 successfully completing their community service hours.**



CJD FUNDING SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY

The department provides grant writing, administration, and technical assistance to local nonprofit service providers and justice system partners. We manage over \$2 million in federal, state, and foundation grants to support complex, multi-agency initiatives to meet department goals. Funds added support for the following service providers:

- The **Rural Program**, which provided advocacy and support services to 266 victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse in Mineral and Missoula counties.
 - YWCA Shelter Advocates provided emergency shelter to 30 rural survivors of intimate partner violence and 28 family members (including children), totaling 2,560 bed nights.
 - Ries Law Group provided legal services to 16 rural survivors of sexual violence including orders of protection, divorce, custody, child and spousal support, and other family matters, housing advocacy, and crime victim's rights, totaling more than 280 hours of legal services.
 - Montana Legal Services Association provided 428 hours of civil legal services to 14 domestic violence survivors in Mineral County. Legal issues included parenting plans, orders of protection, divorce, and parenting plan modifications.
- **First Step Sexual Assault Nurse Practitioners** (SANEs), who provide 24/7 coverage, ensuring people reporting sexual assault and strangulation have access to quality medical care and forensic evidence collection. First Step provided 59 adult sexual assault evaluations, 20 adolescent sexual assault evaluations, and 18 strangulation evaluations.
- **Western Montana Mental Health Center**, which provided more than 400 substance use evaluations in 2023. A judge often orders these evaluations as a condition of release from jail. When defendants cannot access an evaluation, they may stay in jail longer.
- **The Montana Office of State Public Defender**, which provided case management services to more than 200 Indigenous defendants navigating the criminal justice system to reduce failure to appear for court and probation violations.

Supported
266
VICTIMS

Provided
2,560
NIGHTS OF
SHELTER

Provided
280
HOURS OF
LEGAL
SERVICES

Provided
428
HOURS OF
CIVIL LEGAL
SERVICES

Provided
97
SEXUAL
ASSAULT
EVALUATIONS

Provided over
400
SUBSTANCE
USE
EVALUATIONS

Supported
more than
200
INDIGENOUS
DEFENDANTS



- **The Missoula Probation and Parole Office**, which expedited evaluations and access to treatment and community services for more than 230 clients.
- **Missoula City-County Public Health Department Health Relationships and Prevention Services**, which provided 80 presentations to 138 elementary school participants and 838 high school participants. They provided four adult prevention workshops to 28 participants.
- **Missoula County Misdemeanor Probation Program**, which serves 75 to 125 people per year who are sentenced to misdemeanor probation for DUI and domestic violence cases through the Missoula County Justice Court and the 4th Judicial District Court.
- **Missoula County Domestic Violence Court**, which hired a court coordinator to improve case management, communication, access to support services, training, education, and collaboration to improve survivor safety and accountability.
- **The Youth Crisis Mobile Program**, a partnership between Missoula County Public Schools and Missoula County Youth Court to respond rapidly to youth in crisis. Funding supported expanding services from four middle and high schools to all elementary, middle, and high schools in Missoula.

230
EXPEDITED
SERVICES

84
PRESENTATIONS

Serves
75 to 125
PEOPLE
PER YEAR

CJD PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING

In addition to the CJD's support of individuals, the CJD team provides support, training, and technical assistance to various community partners. Some activities in 2023 included:

- Crime Victim Advocate staff provided training on domestic violence-related issues to YWCA advocates; University of Montana School of Social Work, School of Psychology, and Criminal Justice Program students; Missoula Police Department; and Missoula County Public Schools.
- Crime Victim Advocate manager provided 364 hours of clinical supervision to seven staff members seeking licensure through the Montana Board of Behavioral Health.
- Just Response hosted a two-day conference, attended by more than 40 participants, with four national experts speaking on best practices for responding to domestic violence and intimate partner violence.
- Grant funds supported travel and training for more than 20 partners, including judges, law enforcement officers, advocates, pretrial service specialists, and case managers, to attend four national conferences.